

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-86 (*Canceled*)

87. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank, said method comprising:

- providing a longitudinal glass tube,
- providing a longitudinal mold having a flat sided polygonal shape,
- positioning said longitudinal glass tube proximate said longitudinal mold,
- heating said longitudinal glass tube,
- applying a deforming fluid pressure to said heated longitudinal glass tube wherein said glass tube deforms and conforms to said mold,
- cooling said deformed glass tube to provide a flat sided polygonal shaped glass tube, and
- cutting a flat side from said flat sided polygonal shaped glass tube.

88. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a SiO₂ soot tube and consolidating the soot tube into a glass.

89. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes depositing SiO₂ soot on a support member.

90. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a silicon oxyfluoride glass tube.

91. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a glass tube comprised of silicon dioxide.

92. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, wherein providing a longitudinal glass tube further includes providing a high purity fused silica glass tube.

93. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, further comprising encompassing said glass tube with said mold and expanding said glass tube into contact with said mold.

94. (*Original*) A method of making a glass blank as claimed in claim 87, further comprising encompassing said mold with said glass tube and collapsing said glass tube onto said mold.

95 – 101 (*Canceled*)

102. (*Original*) A method of making a low OH silicon oxyfluoride glass blank said method comprising

providing a SiO_2 soot

exposing said soot to a chlorine containing atmosphere to remove OH from said soot
terminating exposure to said chlorine atmosphere

flushing residual chlorine from the soot

consolidating said soot into a silicon oxyfluoride glass having an OH level less than 1 ppm.

103. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 102 wherein flushing and consolidating comprises flushing and consolidating said soot in a He containing atmosphere.

104. (*Original*) A method as claimed in claim 102 wherein flushing and consolidating comprises flushing and consolidating said soot in a F containing atmosphere.